



Forest and Climate Campaigner at FERN

Full time position, based in Brussels, Belgium.

FERN is an international organisation that works to achieve greater environmental and social justice, focusing on forests and forest peoples' rights in the policies and practices of the European Union. We facilitate several NGO networks and work cooperatively to achieve change. Currently, our main campaign areas are avoided deforestation and degradation, illegal logging, bioenergy, carbon trading, and trade and investment.

FERN has no director and strives to make decisions by consensus. This drives our way of working, which is to open rather than occupy space for dialogue on the issues that affect forests and the environment. FERN has offices in Brussels, Belgium and Moreton-in-Marsh, UK.

FERN is looking for a new campaigner to strengthen our work with partners in the Congo Basin involved in national level Reduced Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation (REDD) discussions. The successful applicant will work from our Brussels office and be hard working, dynamic, flexible, able to multi-task and culturally sensitive. He/she will need to bring strong team-building skills to FERN's forest governance team and be able to liaise easily with both EU officials and grassroots organisations in the Congo Basin.

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Main responsibilities

- Developing and effectively implementing FERN's Congo Basin work for the campaign on Avoided Deforestation and Forest Degradation (ADD) in close cooperation with FERN partners in the region and the EU.
- Contributing to the management and development of FERN beyond your campaign area to ensure the smooth working of the organisation.

Issue related tasks

- Supporting FERN's partners and their networks in the Congo Basin in making forest peoples' rights and forest governance the starting point for discussions on national REDD processes;
- Developing a close working relationship and supporting relevant NGOs and Indigenous Peoples Organisations (IPOs) active in the field of community rights, forest governance and climate change in the Congo Basin;
- Facilitating common NGO understanding and positions on the importance of forest governance and community rights as the basis for national decisions on REDD and related forest policies;
- Facilitating analysis and understanding of the implications from different funding models for REDD for forest peoples rights and governance;
- Supporting NGO networks in the Congo Basin to build and strengthen capacity to be able to effectively engage in national forest and climate change debates;
- Monitoring and analysing national processes related to forests and climate change in the Congo Basin, with a view to influencing these processes;
- In cooperation with partners, facilitating advocacy towards European Union Institutions, EU Member States and Southern institutions and/or governments;
- Developing relevant advocacy and education tools that strengthen FERN's advocacy work on ADD and related issues;

- Producing reports and briefing papers on relevant topics;
- Participating in and organising meetings/seminars with EU institutions and FERN partners, wherever relevant;
- Writing regular campaign updates and articles for, among others, FERN's newsletter EU Forest Watch (10 issues per year).

General tasks

- Staying informed about FERN's various campaigns;
- Contributing to the maintaining of a vibrant and financially stable organisation by carrying out general managerial and administrative tasks that are shared between all staff and by participating in the organisational development of FERN;
- Managing the campaign budget in close cooperation with FERN's finance and administration manager and FERN campaigners working on the same issue;
- Maintaining a shared filing system on issues relevant to the position.

PERSON SPECIFICATIONS

Essential

- Experience in working with NGOs and NGO networks in Europe and the South, preferably Africa;
- Experience of facilitating NGO networks, developing joint (NGO) positions and facilitating meetings involving a broad range of views, interest groups, and cultural approaches;
- Proven ability to establish and maintain good working relationships with partner organisations at grassroots level;
- Ability to establish and maintain good relationships with government or EU officials;
- Experience in developing, implementing and evaluating campaign plans;
- A good understanding of the current ADD/REDD debate and the interface between climate change, forests and social justice;
- Excellent spoken and written French and English;
- Good organisational and computer skills (Office package);
- The ability to work individually and within a team;
- The ability to manage a workload and identify priorities;
- Willingness to travel frequently to the Congo Basin and between FERN's offices.

Desirable

- A good understanding of the functioning of EU institutions and how to use them;
- Knowledge of problems concerning lack of recognition of community rights in Congo Basin countries;
- Good knowledge of international environmental and human rights law;
- Successful fundraising experience.

APPLICATIONS

To apply, please send your CV and a letter explaining your reasons for applying for the job and wanting to work for FERN to julie@fern.org by 11 March 2010. Applications sent without a cover letter will not be considered.

RELEVANT INFORMATION

Salary range is 33,300 to 47,150 Euro, depending on experience. Selected candidates will be invited for an interview and notified by Wednesday 17 March. **The interview will take place on Friday 19th March in our Brussels office.** Reasonable travel costs for the interview will be reimbursed.